Woods, FREDERICK ADAMS, M.D., Lecturer in Biology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and ALEXANDER BALTZLY (Adams Woods' Fellow in Harvard University). *Is War Diminishing?* Boston: Riverside Press; 1915; pp. 100; price 5s. net.

THIS book, side by side with the imperfections almost inherent in pioneer work, has the inestimable merit of a real attempt to bring scientific method into one department of sociology. We must let Professor Woods introduce himself in his own words: "Within the last twenty years hundreds and hundreds of books and pamphlets have been published on the subject of war and peace, but these have been almost without exception from the emotional, personal and subjective point of view. It is strange that, among the host of well-meaning pacifists and in the phalanx of sturdy militarists where the assumption is rife that war is to cease or ought to cease, no one apparently has taken pains to find out if war really is ceasing. . . . It was with a wholesome disgust at the unscientific character of the publications of various peace societies that I began to collect these few humble facts. . . . As a man of science, I should like meekly to ask these professors of ethics, law and justice; these presidents of colleges; these moral educators, if morality is not necessarily bound up with truth?"

The bulk of the book, therefore, consists of lists of dates and statistical charts, each prefaced by a brief introductory chapter. These data were collected, in the rough, some six years ago by Professor Woods, and were worked out more fully in 1915 by Mr. Baltzly. The preface and the introductory chapter of 27 pages are by Professor Woods.

The authors do not disguise from themselves the difficulty of presenting such a subject in a statistical form. Their conspectus shows only the duration of wars in Europe; the equally important factors of intensity, or of geographical extension, are necessarily ignored. Thus, in England, Lambert Simnel and the Battle of Stoke count for just as much as the Hundred Days and Waterloo. The authors are doubtless right in claiming that, during so wide a survey, these irregularities do much to cancel each other. But there is one important historical distinction which chronological tables like these can do nothing to indicate—the distinction between mere predatory raids and national wars—between small bands of mercenaries and nations in arms—the distinction marked by the adjectives *pugnacious* and *warlike*, which well-meaning pacifist writers so constantly confuse. Not that Professor Woods ignores this most necessary distinction; on the contrary, he brings it out very clearly in his introduction (pp. 19-21). But his statistical method is, perhaps necessarily, too simple to take it into account. We are therefore left with the paradox, duly noted by Mr. Baltzly, that "Prussia alone, among the expanding nationalities, exhibits a decline among war-years" (p. 32). During this last century Prussia has spent very little *time* in actual warfare; but her brief wars have been waged with the energy of a whole population, not merely by a few thousand men set apart from the rest of the nation as professional soldiers. It is very difficult to deny that "success in modern war is essentially intellectual . . . . a national war is the most highly complex organic aggregate that we know anything about" (p. 4). For this conclusion agrees, essentially, with the verdict of that pacifist who, in our own times, has written of war and peace with the nearest approach to scientific accuracy—Jacques Novicow. Novicow admits freely that organised warfare has, hitherto, been a product not of barbarism but of civilisation; "it is intellectual progress which has made war possible among men . . . . if men did not fight each other, they would simply be like tigers, who do not eat each other" (*Critique du Darwinisme Social*, pp. 53, 57).

Many of us would not go so far in the direction of militarism as Professor Woods seems inclined to go. We may still believe, in spite

of unfortunate past experiences, that there is a real distinction between offensive and defensive warfare; and therefore that, as civilisation progresses, it may become no longer "impossible that all armies should be armies of defence" (p. 16). Here, as in so many other departments of life, an organism may well become practically useless many generations before it finally disappears; and we may reasonably calculate our policy with reference to this future possibility, only taking care not to anticipate it with an unscientific impatience which must defeat its own ends. Professor Woods does not disguise his sympathy with what seems logical in militarism, or his contempt for the too frequent false logic of prominent pacifists. But he lays all his cards upon the table; he produces an array of facts which future historians will have to face; and, meanwhile, his present comments on those facts are both readable and stimulating.

G. G. COULTON.

Mosso, A. *Fatigue.* Translated by Margaret Drummond and W. B. Drummond. London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd.; 1915; price 3s. 6d.; pp. 334.

THE issue of a third and cheaper edition of an English translation of Professor Mosso's well-known work is most opportune. Fatigue as a practical problem has recently been engaging the attention both of business firms and of Government departments. Professor Mosso's book not only describes original scientific investigations of the utmost importance for the understanding of fatigue, but also provides a popular and fascinating exposition of the physiology and psychology of his subject, so far as it was known when he wrote. It would, perhaps, have been well if the translators could have prefaced this last edition by at least a reminder, if not a résumé, of the large additions that have been made to our knowledge of fatigue since first the book was published.

Conway, SIR MARTIN. *The Crowd in Peace and War.* London: Longman's, Green and Co.; 1915; price 6s. net; pp. 332.

WHEN Pickwick was being taken to the house of the magistrate, followed by a shouting crowd, Sam Weller "stepped aside to see the crowd pass, and finding that they were cheering away, very much to their own satisfaction, forthwith began to cheer too, with all his might and main"—being entirely ignorant both of his master's predicament, and, indeed, of the cause of the cheering. Why an individual behaves differently when in a crowd, and why the differences in behaviour are apparently so irrational—these are questions which have often interested social psychologists. In France a definite doctrine of crowd psychology has been developed, and attempts have been made to base the psychology of society upon analogies derived from the study of crowds.

Sir Martin Conway has endeavoured to apply the generalisations of crowd-psychologists to the facts of current social and political life; to illustrate the applications by actual events; and to draw corollaries of practical interest to men of affairs. The discussion is enriched by a wealth of felicitous instances; and the style enlivened by apt and suggestive metaphors. To add to scientific knowledge, either of the crowd or of society, is perhaps scarcely his immediate purpose.

The first chapter deals with "Kinds of crowds." They are taken as ranging from the mob that collects around a street accident up to a modern English Cabinet. The different grades of self-consciousness and organisation that may exist within such "crowds" are perhaps not quite clearly exhibited. "Executive Committees," it is said, "can never in fact be crowds. . . . A crowd cannot take counsel. It can only listen to competing leaders and accept one of them. Where the purpose to be obtained cannot so be arrived at, a crowd is impotent." The following chapter